

AMENDMENTS

In the Claims

Please delete Claims 11, 38 and 55 without prejudice, and amend the remaining claims as follows:

1. (currently amended) A method of carrying out a combustion process,
comprising:

initiating a combustion reaction of a combustion material;

stimulating one or more components of the combustion material using nuclear

5 resonance to alter the oxidation of one or more selected components of the
combustion reaction, the nuclear resonance stimulation having a frequency
targeted for the one or more selected components;

sensing one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and

10 adjusting the frequency of the nuclear resonance stimulation based on sensed
operating parameters.

2. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating utilizes nuclear
magnetic resonance.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating utilizes nuclear
quadrupole resonance.

4. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating stimulates the
one or more components of the combustion material after the combustion reaction in an
exhaust stream.

5. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating stimulates the
one or more components of the combustion material during the combustion reaction in
the combustion chamber.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating stimulates the one or more components of the combustion material before the combustion reaction in an intake.

7. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating stimulates a first component of the combustion material in an intake to the combustion chamber with nuclear magnetic resonance and stimulates a second component of the combustion material in the combustion chamber with nuclear quadrupole resonance.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

9. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of hydrogen-1 in the combustion material.

10. (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein said stimulating emits an electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with said initiating of the combustion reaction.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein:
said sensing provides information on one or more gas levels in an exhaust stream;
and
said adjusting tunes the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the gas level information.

13. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein:
said sensing provides information on temperature in an exhaust stream; and
said adjusting tunes the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the temperature
information.

14. (currently amended) The method of Claim ~~11~~ 1 wherein said adjusting tunes the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on a comparison of at least one current operating parameter to a previously-recorded operating parameter.

15. (original) A method of carrying out a combustion process, comprising:
introducing a combustion material into a combustion chamber through an intake;
initiating a combustion reaction of the combustion material in the combustion
chamber; and

5 before said initiating, stimulating one or more components of the combustion
material while in the intake using nuclear magnetic resonance to increase
the oxidation of one or more selected components of the combustion
reaction, wherein said stimulating occurs sufficiently close to the
combustion chamber such that travel time of the stimulated combustion
10 material is less than a resonance relaxation time of the one or more
selected components.

16. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency
of hydrogen-1 in the combustion material.

17. (original) The method of Claim 15 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with said initiating of the combustion
reaction.

18. (original) The method of Claim 15 further comprising:
sensing one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and
adjusting the nuclear magnetic resonance stimulation based on sensed operating
parameters.

19. (withdrawn) A method of carrying out a combustion process, comprising:
introducing a combustion material into a combustion chamber;
initiating a combustion reaction of the combustion material in the combustion
chamber; and

5 during the combustion reaction, stimulating one or more components of the
combustion material while in the combustion chamber using nuclear
quadrupole resonance to reduce the oxidation of one or more selected
components of the combustion reaction.

20. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency
of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

21. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with said initiating of the combustion
reaction.

22. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:
sensing one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and
adjusting the nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation based on sensed operating
parameters.

23. (withdrawn) A method of carrying out a combustion process, comprising:
introducing a combustion material into a combustion chamber;
initiating a combustion reaction of the combustion material in the combustion
chamber; and
5 after the combustion reaction, stimulating one or more components of the
combustion material in an exhaust stream using nuclear quadrupole
resonance to reduce the oxidation of one or more selected components of
the combustion reaction.

24. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 23 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency
of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

25. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 23 wherein said stimulating emits an
electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with said initiating of the combustion
reaction.

26. (withdrawn) The method of Claim 23 further comprising:
sensing one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and
adjusting the nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation based on sensed operating
parameters.

27. (currently amended) A combustion apparatus comprising:
a combustion chamber for containing a combustion reaction;
an intake for feeding a combustion material into said combustion chamber;
an exhaust port for carrying an exhaust stream away from said combustion
5 chamber;

a nuclear resonance stimulation source which stimulates one or more components
of the combustion material to alter the oxidation of one or more selected
components of the combustion reaction, said nuclear resonance
stimulation source having a frequency targeted for the one or more
10 selected components;

at least one sensor which senses one or more operating parameters of the
combustion reaction; and

a feedback control unit which adjusts the frequency of said nuclear resonance
stimulation source based on sensed operating parameters.

28. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear
resonance stimulation source is a nuclear magnetic resonance source.

29. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear
resonance stimulation source is a nuclear quadrupole resonance source.

30. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear
resonance stimulation source stimulates the one or more components of the combustion
material after the combustion reaction in the exhaust stream.

31. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear
resonance stimulation source stimulates the one or more components of the combustion
material during the combustion reaction in said combustion chamber.

32. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear resonance stimulation source stimulates the one or more components of the combustion material before the combustion reaction in said intake.

33. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear resonance stimulation source includes a nuclear magnetic resonance source which stimulates a first component of the combustion material in said intake and a nuclear quadrupole resonance source which stimulates a second component of the combustion material in said combustion chamber.

34. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

35. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of hydrogen-1 in the combustion material.

36. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27 wherein said nuclear resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with the combustion reaction.

37. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 27, further comprising electromagnetic shielding inside combustion chamber which reflects radio frequency signals toward the combustion reaction.

38. (canceled)

39. (currently amended) The combustion apparatus of Claim ~~38~~ 27 wherein:
said sensor provides information on one or more gas levels in an exhaust stream;
and
said feedback control unit adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the gas level
information.

5

40. (currently amended) The combustion apparatus of Claim ~~38~~ 27 wherein:
said sensor provides information on temperature in the exhaust stream; and
said feedback control unit adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the
temperature information.

41. (currently amended) The combustion apparatus of Claim ~~38~~ 27 wherein said
feedback control unit adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on a comparison of at least
one current operating parameter to a previously-recorded operating parameter.

42. (original) A combustion apparatus comprising:
a combustion chamber for containing a combustion reaction;
an intake for feeding a combustion material into said combustion chamber;
a nuclear magnetic resonance stimulation source which stimulates one or more
5 components of the combustion material while in said intake before the
combustion reaction to increase the oxidation of one or more selected
components of the combustion reaction, said nuclear magnetic resonance
stimulation source being sufficiently close to said combustion chamber
such that travel time of the stimulated combustion material is less than a
10 resonance relaxation time of the one or more selected components.

43. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 42 wherein said nuclear
magnetic resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic signal having a
frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of hydrogen-1 in the combustion
material.

44. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 42 wherein said nuclear
magnetic resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic pulse which is
synchronized with the combustion reaction.

45. (original) The combustion apparatus of Claim 42, further comprising:
at least one sensor which senses one or more operating parameters of the
combustion reaction; and
a feedback control unit which adjusts said nuclear magnetic resonance stimulation
5 source based on sensed operating parameters.

46. (withdrawn) A combustion apparatus comprising:

a combustion chamber for containing a combustion reaction of a combustion material; and

a nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source which stimulates one or more components of the combustion material while in said combustion chamber during the combustion reaction to reduce the oxidation of one or more selected components of the combustion reaction.

47. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

48. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 46 wherein said nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with the combustion reaction.

49. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 46, further comprising:
at least one sensor which senses one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and

a feedback control unit which adjusts said nuclear magnetic quadrupole stimulation source based on sensed operating parameters.

50. (withdrawn) A combustion apparatus comprising:

a combustion chamber for containing a combustion reaction of a combustion material; and

an exhaust port for carrying an exhaust stream away from said combustion chamber; and

a nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source which stimulates one or more components of the combustion material in the exhaust stream after the combustion reaction to reduce the oxidation of one or more selected components of the combustion reaction.

51. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 50 wherein said nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic signal having a frequency which targets a nuclear resonance frequency of nitrogen-14 in the combustion material.

52. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 50 wherein said nuclear quadrupole resonance stimulation source emits an electromagnetic pulse which is synchronized with the combustion reaction.

53. (withdrawn) The combustion apparatus of Claim 50, further comprising:
at least one sensor which senses one or more operating parameters of the combustion reaction; and

a feedback control unit which adjusts said nuclear magnetic quadrupole stimulation source based on sensed operating parameters.

54. (currently amended) A feedback control unit for a nuclear resonance stimulation source which enhances a combustion reaction, comprising:
one or more inputs for receiving sensory data relating to the combustion reaction;
control logic which examines the sensory data to determine an operational
5 adjustment factor for a frequency of the nuclear resonance stimulation source targeted for one or more selected components of the combustion reaction; and
an output which provides a signal indicative of the operational adjustment factor.

55. (canceled)

56. (currently amended) The feedback control unit of Claim ~~55~~ 54 further comprising a user interface which allows the ~~beginning~~ frequency to be programmably set.

57. (original) The feedback control unit of Claim 56 wherein said user interface further allows a frequency adjustment value to be programmably set.

58. (currently amended) The feedback control unit of Claim ~~55~~ 54 wherein the sensory data relates to information on one or more gas levels in an exhaust stream, and said control logic adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the gas level information.

59. (currently amended) The feedback control unit of Claim ~~55~~ 54 wherein the sensory data relates to information on temperature in an exhaust stream, and said control logic adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on the temperature information.

60. (currently amended) The feedback control unit of Claim ~~55~~ 54 wherein said control logic adjusts the ~~beginning~~ frequency based on a comparison of current sensory data to previously-recorded sensory data.